

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE  
A United Church of Christ**

**A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
5th Sunday of Pentecost  
and  
Pride Sunday**

**June 28, 2026  
10:00 A.M.**

***For Reflection:***

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In God’s hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.*

The Book of Job 12:7-10

**WE GATHER**

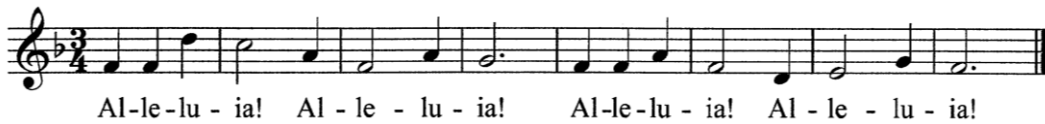
*(May the first note of the Gathering Music be a call to prayer and stillness as we prepare for worship.  
Also, please turn off your cell phone upon entering the Sanctuary.)*

Gathering Music

\*Introit

***Zimbabwe Alleluia***(2x)

Abraham Maraire



Words of Welcome and Breathing in God’s Spirit of Peace, Hope, and Love

Sharing God’s Spirit

***May the Spirit be with you!***

\*Regathering and Welcoming Visitors

***Zimbabwe Alleluia*** (1x)

Abraham Maraire

Breathing in God’s Gifts Again

Musical Call to Worship

***Down to the River to Pray***

The Call to Worship from Psalm 96

O sing to God a new song;

**Sing praise, all the earth!**

Sing, and bless God’s name; tell of God’s salvation from day to day.

**Declare God’s glory among the nations, and marvelous works among all peoples!**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

**Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God.**

Come, friends, sing to the God of infinite imagination and all Creation!

\*Hymn

31

***All Things Bright and Beautiful***

Cecil F. Alexander/Royal Oak

## WE OPEN TO GOD'S SPIRIT

\*A Prayer of Invocation (based on a poem by e e cummings) (unison)

**we thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes**

**(we who have died are alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)**

**how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any-lifted from the no  
of all nothing-human merely being  
doubt unimaginably You?**

**(now may the ears of our ears awake and  
now may the eyes of our eyes be opened)**

**Amen.**

\*In a Time of Silent Prayer and Assurance of Grace

\*In Song

*From All That Dwells Below the Skies*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*From all that dwells below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung. Let God the Spirit free each tongue!  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!*

*(Children in grades K-5 are invited to go to Kids United with Dana Bender for music and stories.  
Nursery care is also available throughout the service.)*

## WE ENGAGE

A Psalm of Creation

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment....  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle  
and plants for people to cultivate,  
to bring forth food from the earth  
and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
The trees of the field are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coney....

You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest  
come creeping out.  
The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.  
People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.  
O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
There is the sea, great and wide;  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are filled with good things....  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

Sermon

*Regard the Hippo and Consider the Seahorse*

A Second Reading

The Book of Job 40:15-23

“Look at Behemoth,  
which I made just as I made you;  
it eats grass like an ox.  
Its strength is in its loins  
and its power in the muscles of its belly.  
It makes its tail stiff like a cedar;  
the sinews of its thighs are knit together.  
Its bones are tubes of bronze,  
its limbs like bars of iron.

“It is the first of the great acts of God;  
only its Maker can approach it with the sword.  
For the mountains yield food for it  
where all the wild animals play.  
Under the lotus plants it lies,  
in the covert of the reeds and in the marsh.  
The lotus trees cover it for shade;  
the willows of the wadi surround it.  
Even if the river is turbulent, it is not frightened;  
it is confident though Jordan rushes against its mouth.

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

*As with Rosy Steps the Morn*

G.F. Handel

### WE RESPOND

Offering Ourselves in Prayer (*We conclude with the Prayer of our Savior. Please pray any version.*)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

### WE GO OUT IN PEACE

- \*Hymn                      *Earth Is Filled with Wit and Wisdom* (insert, vs. 1-2)                      Adam M.L. Tice/Holy Manna
- \*Benediction
- \*Musical Benediction                      *Earth Is Filled* (vs. 3)                      Adam M.L. Tice/Holy Manna

### ***WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANTA FE!***

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Your presence enriches the experience of us all. We also invite you to join in our education and service offerings in the week ahead. If you're visiting, please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card. Again, welcome!

Sharing leadership are Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Pastor; Michelle Schumann, Pianist/Music Director); Dana Bender, Family Minister. Liturgists to be announced. You were greeted by Ministers of Hospitality Louise Cavatta, Bob Ansheles, Tom Stewart, Pam Hyde, and Karen Wilbanks; and Sunday Aide Irene Guilbeaut. Volunteers Sam Elkind and Bill Whitney livestream the service.

We are honored to welcome Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Sophia Baete, Mezzo Soprano who is making her Santa Fe debut as Cio-Cio-San's Aunt in Madama Butterfly. A recent graduate of The Julliard School (where she received both her Bachelors and Masters as a Jerome L. Green Fellow), Ms. Baete will serve as a Lindemann Young Artist at The Metropolitan Opera for the 26/27 season. Recent awards include 2026 Grand Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, 2025 Grand Prize of Lissner Charitable Fund Award, 2025 Renata Scotto Prize in the Premiere Opera Foundation International Voice Competition, and winner of the 2026 Juilliard Honors Recital. She is also an alumna of Carnegie Hall's SongStudio, the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Young Artist Program, the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, and Houston Grand Opera's YAVA Program. Take time after the service to extend your thanks and blessings!

### ***Kids United – Singing Through the Summer!***

Each week, children of all ages join Family Ministry Director Dana Bender as we sing our way through the summer—exploring prayer and our love for God, Neighbor, and Creation through music (and also tending the Children's Garden).

### ***To Be Gay and Christian*** **Sunday Forum (11:15) – June 28**

In celebration of Santa Fe's Pride Weekend, a panel of United members and friends share some of their journeys of faith and life as LGBTQ+ Christians or parents of LGBTQ+ children.

### **Day Trip to Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum – This Wednesday, July 1 – 7:00 am to 5:00 pm**

In 1864, the U.S. Army drove the Navajo/Diné people from their homeland in New Mexico and Arizona to Ft. Sumner in Bosque Redondo. The Long Walk of the Navajo is a hard truth of our nation's history. The Wednesday before the U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, United offers a day trip to the Bosque Redondo Historic Site and Museum. We'll leave at 7:00 am, tour the museum and site, have lunch, then return. Sign up in Com. Room or at [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com). Info: Talitha Arnold.

### ***What Does the Bible Really Say about Forgiveness? – Zoom Study Group***

**Thursdays: 8:00 – 9:00 am (MDT)**

Join people from around the country for an in-depth look at what the Bible says about the challenging (and often confusing) topic of “forgiveness.” All welcome! To register, email [unitedchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchsf@gmail.com).

### ***O Beautiful, O Blessed | July 5 – 10:00 Service only (and it's outdoors)***

In his first Inaugural Address to the nation, President Abraham Lincoln appealed to “the better angels of our nature” to heal the divisions that were leading to war. This Sunday of the Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we'll do what angels do – sing! Old songs, new songs, national songs, sacred songs, songs of different regions and centuries sung by people of different backgrounds, races, ethnicities. Songs accompanied by drums, guitars and mandolins or just the human voice. Songs that shaped – and continue to shape—our nation. Most of all, songs that call us all to heed the “better angels” of ourselves as a nation. The United Pickers musically lead this outdoor service that brings together both the 8:30 and 10:00 congregations.

### ***July 5 – A BYOL Birthday Celebration! (Bring Your Own Lunch)***

On the Sunday after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we'll have red, white, and blue cupcakes, fruit, chips, and drinks – bring your own picnic “entrée” (sandwich, salad, etc.) and join with your United community for an old-fashioned picnic!

### ***Mid-Summer Family Fun Water Night – Friday, July 10 (5:30-7:30)***

It's hot! It's the end of the week and you want to escape the responsibility of food planning. What you REALLY want to do is join in a water balloon toss and get a little wet on a hot summer evening. Look no further! Come to the church and hang out for an evening of food, water games, and lively conversation! Please contact Dana Bender at [unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurch.dana@gmail.com) or sign up in the community room before July 6! Invite friends! All are welcome!

### ***The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family – Adult Forum, July 12 (11:15 am)***

In 1990, Bettye Kears's mother designated her as her African American family's “Griotte” – the storyteller and oral historian to preserve the genealogies and traditions of her community. That role took Bettye, a pediatrician from Boston and part of the United Church community, all around the U.S. and to Ghana to Portugal to write what she describes as “a personal family history and an homage to millions of silenced, invisible African Americans.” Her book embraces a more inclusive and complete American story—a great focus for our nation in this time.

### ***Praying in the Dirt and Feeding Hungry Families***

All produce from the Children's Garden goes to the Santa Fe Food Depot to provide nutritious food to people throughout Northern New Mexico. You can help United kids feed other kids (and their parents) by volunteering to take a week of watering, weeding, or harvesting this summer. Sign up in Community Room or contact Dana Bender (602-570-9709).

### ***Weekly Food Drive for The Food Depot***

To help Santa Fe children in the final days of school and heading into the summer, we invite your donations of non-perishable food for the Food Depot. Every public school has their own “Food Pantry” that parents, youth, and children can use for weekends and summertime when school isn't in session.

### ***Opera Singers, United Pickers, and Lots More Musically This Summer at United***

- Next Sunday, July 5, our **Outdoor Celebration of the U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday** features American folk music, offered by the **United Pickers** (i.e., guitarists, mandolinists, and banjo players).
- In celebration of “**International Folk Art**” Sunday (July 12), we'll sing of God's creation all around the world and in a host of different languages. It's also “Drop-in Choir” Sunday so if you like to sing, come at 9:00 to rehearse and sing with the Choir in the 10:00 service.
- Sunday, July 19, we welcome **Opera Apprentice** Kyle White, baritone (and welcome back Pianist Jacquelyn Helin)
- We finish out July on the 26<sup>th</sup> (Spanish Market Sunday) with **Opera Apprentice** Matthew Juhlin, baritone.
- And in August:
  - The **Drop-In Choir** is Sunday, August 9.
  - On August 16, we welcome back **Lavonne Yazzie**, Navajo/Diné singer and Cantor for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Albuquerque.

**Mark your calendars and bring friends!**

***Crossing Borders: The Music that Made Us Americans***  
KSFR (101.1 FM) "Forum" – Tomorrow (Monday) 6:00 pm  
with host Talitha Arnold

Leading up to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation, KSFR co-host Talitha Arnold is joined by KSFR news reporter Patrick Davis offer "Crossing Borders: Music That Made Us Americans." They'll explore the songs, artists, and musical traditions that have shaped our nation's history and identity, especially when we were willing to learn from one another across divisions of race, religion, or national origin. The show is rebroadcast on Wednesday at 4:00 and then available through the KSFR archives.

***What Is Christian Nationalism (and Why Should We Care)?***

Starting next week, tune into a podcast from *Indivisible Santa Fe Radio* (on Spotify, Amazon Music, etc.) with Rev. Gary Kowalski of *Santa Fe Indivisible* interviewing Rev. Talitha Arnold on "The Rise of Christian Nationalism: What Is It and Why Do We Need to Be Aware?"

**Love Creation!**

**United's Carbon Offset Program Addresses Climate Change**

Track car mileage and/or plane flight hours and donate through United to *NM Interfaith Power and Light* and the *Santa Fe Watershed Association* for their environmental advocacy and hands-on care for God's good earth and generations yet to come. (\$8/100 miles driven; \$8/3 hours in the air). Info: <https://www.unitedchurchofsantafe.org/creation-care>.

**Compost Collection – It's a Miracle!**

United contracts with Reunity Resources to turn compostable products (food waste, meat scraps, etc.) into rich, life-giving compost. Get compostable garbage bags at church (**NO** standard plastic bags, please), fill at home, and bring back to put in the green bin by the Children's Garden. More things in compost bins means less in landfills.

The church office is closed this Friday, July 3, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.

***Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom***

Adam M.L. Tice/Holy Manna



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, plat - y - pus and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
Ev - ery crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - ery flower and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse and snake,  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.